

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 218005

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNESCO;RCHEATER;JU

APPROVED BY IO: RCREIS JR.

S/S-O: J. HOGANSON

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P 122306Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 218005

EXDIS NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE LEMAIRE VISIT TO JERUSALEM

REF; STATE 187600(NOTAL), PARIS 19528

ROME FOR AMB. LODGE'S OFFICE

THE FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT (JERUSALEM 1275) OF AUGUST 11,
1975:

1. EMBASSY TEL AVIV IN BETTER POSITION THAN ARE WE TO
COMMENT ON GOI POLICY OR INTENTIONS VIS-A-VIS JERUSALEM
EXCAVATIONS. HOWEVER, WE NOT AWARE OF ANY PLANS TO
TERMINATE THEM. IN FACT, AMBASSADOR COLLEGE GROUP FROM
PASADENA EXPECTING TO RETURN TO TEMPLE MOUNT SITE NEXT
SUMMER TO CONTINUE WORK. IT IS POSSIBLE CERTAIN ASPECTS
OR PROJECTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND THAT ANNOUNCEMENT TO
THIS EFFECT CONTEMPLATED, BUT WE WOULD SERIOUSLY DOUBT
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY GENERAL CESSATION OF WORK ON EXCABATIONS
ESPECIALLY IF IT COULD BE INTERPRETED IN ANY WAY AS
CAPITULATION TO UNESCO DEMANDS.

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2. IT NOT CLEAR TO US WHAT MRS. LAMBERT MEANT BY "EXCAVATIONS IN ARAB QUARTER OF CITY". PRESUMABLY SHE MEANT EXCAVATIONS IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO TEMPLE MOUNT (HARAM-AS-SHARIF) CARRIED OUT UNDER DIRECTION PROF. BINYAMIN MAZAR, AS DISTINCT FROM THOSE IN JEWISH QUARTER. NOT CLEAR WHETHER SHE ALSO INCLUDED CONTROVERSIAL TUNNELING ALONG WEST SIDE OF HARAM (SEPARATE PROJECT UNDER MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS) THAT WAS ALSO COVERED IN LEMAIRE REPORT AND WHICH HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF REPEATED CRITICISM. EVEN IF WORK ON FORMER DISCONTINUED (PERHAPS TEMPORARILY) TO DO NOT BELIEVE THAT GOI WOULD COMMIT ITSELF NOT TO PROCEED WITH TUNNEL (WORK ON WHICH IT SAID TO HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED SOME TIME AGO EUT IS CLAIMED BY OTHERS TO BE CONTINUING). KISSINGER

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